Loans to fishing companies by SDFC

1794. SHRI ADINARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount over due from the fishing companies to SDFC;

(b) whether SDFC has served notice on fishing companies for non-payment of loans;

(c) what are the reasons for such non-repayment;

(d) whether it is a fact that large marine food exporters are cornering all the credit of SDFC; and

(e) what are the precautions being taken to stop this flow of SDFC funds to big exporters and processors and to safeguard the interests of the small fishermen?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT (SHRI BANSI LAL): (a) The principal amount over-due from fishing companies to SDFC as on 31-10-1985 is Rs. 51.18 lakhs which is 28 per cent of total principal amount due as on above date.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Some of the fishing companies have pleaded that because of poor catch and trawlers being idle due to repairs, etc. they are not in a position to repay the amounts overdue to SDFC. The pleas will be considered on case by case basis.

(d) and (e) Applications for loans are examined on merit first by a Screening Committee in the Ministry of Agriculture and the recommendations of this Committee are then placed before SDFC for sanctioning the loan. SDFC finance is available for acquisition of fishing trawlers to the companies|firms registered under the Companies Act 1956 and satisfying provisions of Section 21 of said Act. However, companies subject to provisions of MRTP Act and FERA regulations are not entitled to SDFC finance.

Achievements of death rate goal

1795. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether reduction in death rate goal by 2000 A.D. has been achieved by the State Governments; and

(b) if not, which are these States who have achieved this goal and the measures which are being proposed to contemplate to achieve the death rate goals of 2000 A.D. by all the State Governments?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) The annual estimates of Death rate are provided by the Sample Registration System (SRS) of Registrar General, India. Based on the estimated death rates for the latest available year *i.e.* 1983, the following States have already reached the goal set for 2000 A.D. for National level.

Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland and Tripura.

(b) To achieve reduction in death rate to 9 per thousand by the year 2000 A.D., health infrastructure is being improved in a phased manner to provide health and relating facilities as near to the doorstep of the people as possible by establishing sub-centres, primary Health Centres and Post Partum Centres. District level Hospitals are being provided with extra inputs.

Susceptibility of cancer to children

1796. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item which appeared in the Times of India of 21st August, 1985 wherein it has been stated that genetic dis-orders and environmental pollution together with certain yet unknown causes can

make children susceptible to cancer; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to avoid such threats?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The exact etiology of cancer is still unknown. However, from time to time many factors such as heredity, age, virus, environmental pollution and occupations in chemical Industry have been incriminated as cause of cancer. Research in cancer is carried on by the Indian Council of Medical Research and the Regional Cancer Centres in the country. Environmental pollution is being looked after by the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Industry. To facilitate treatment of cancer, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare have been sanctioning Central assistance to various institutions @ Rs. 50,0000 per Centre for setting up of Early Cancer Detection Centres; and in the Seventh Five Year Plan stress is being laid on the imparting of education regarding this disease through primary and secondary prevention. Work on environmental and occupational carcinogenesis is also going on at the National Institute of Occupational Health (ICMR), Ahmedabad, as a part of their research programme.

Production of indigenous polio vaccine

1797. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press report which appeared in Hindustan Times of the 25th August, 1985 wherein it has been stated that an indigenous polio vaccine has successfully been developed by the State-owned Hafkine Bio-Pharmaceutical Corporation Ltd., Bombay; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by when it will be made available for use by the general public?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Haffkine Bio-Pharmaceutical Corporation Limited, Bombay has developed an indigenous monovalent Oral Polio Vaccine Type I, II and III which has passed the critical tests as per WHO specifications conducted at the Corporation and the National Quality Control Laboratory at Central Research Institute, Kasauli. It is to be bended into Trivalent batch and tested again, after which the vaccine will be released for use.

Investigation into the missing ship M. V. Nitya Nanak

1798. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:
SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:

Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the life of missing ship M. V. Nitya Nanak's pyrotechnics system for giving distress signals to nearby vessels had expired in 1984, and that the Maini Shipping Co. had written to the relatives of the missing crew that M. V. Nitya Nanak's non-arrival at Madras was due to bad whether; and

(b) if so, what are the facts investigated so far?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT (SHRI BANSI LAL): (a) and (b) During the course of investigation under Section 360 of the Merchant Shipping Act by the Metropolitan Magistrate, it has been brought out that according to the records of safety equipment certificate which was issued to the ship M. V. Nitya Nanak on 31-3-1985 by Mercantile Marine Department, Tuticorin, the dates of